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Message Text

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61
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 CPR-02 AID-20 PER-05 SCA-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 USIA-15 DODE-00

DRC-01 /074 W
---------- 085032
R 041035Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1668

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EO 1165" N/A
TAGS: ATRN,APER,ID
SUBJECT: GOI BAN ON IMPORT OF CARS FOR USG PERSONNEL

REFS: (A) STATE 65831 (B) JAKARTA 3069 (C) JAKARTA 3147

1. SUMMARY: IN SPITE OF REPEATED QUERIES BY EMBASSY, CONTINUOUS ACTIVITY WITHIN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, FONDEPT AND OTHER GOI AGENCIES, SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS REPORTED REFS B AND C. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE REF B REMAIN VALID. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL (REF B) THAT AMB LEFT NOTE WITH FONDEPT ON MARCH 12, OUTLINING US POSITION AND SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF GOI REGULATIONS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP BY CONSULTATIONS BY ADMIN COUNS WITH DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON MARCH 21, AS WELL AS CONTINUING CONTACTS BY EMBOFFS WITH AMER-ICAN AFFAIRS AND PROTOCOL DIVISIONS OF FORDEPT, AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. IN ORAL REPLY TO OUR COMMMENTS ON RECIPROCITY, FONDEPTOFF REPLIED THIS IMMATERIAL, SINCE INDONESIAN AMB IN WASHINGTON WOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH DUTY-FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGE TO BE USED FOR HIS STAFF PERSONNEL; THUS, HE SAID RECIPROCITY INTACT EXCEPT FOR BUILT UP SEDANS AND SEDAN STATION WAGONS.

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3. IN REPLY THESE MANY CONTACTS, FONDEPT ANSWERED

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WITH NOTE ON MARCH 25 STATING:

A. US WOULD BE ALLOWED IMPORT AUTOS "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY".

B. MISSION PERSONNEL ON DIPLOMATIC LIST WOULD BE ALLOWED IMPORTATION PRIVILEGES, AND

C. REGULATIONS BANNING IMPORTS FOR OTHER USG PERSONNEL DO NOT CONFLICT WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS (NAMELY THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF MARCH 23 AND 31, 1961, THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT OF OCTOBER 16, 1950, AND THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR MILITARY ASST. OF APRIL 14, 1967.)

REPLY DID NOT MENTION THE "SAME AS DIP" TREATMENT WHICH OUR NOTE HAS REQUESTED FOR AID, DLG AND OTHER USG PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS AID CONTRACTORS, WHO DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

4. DESPITE ASSURANCE IN FONDEPT NOTE THAT EMBASSY COULD IMPORT AUTOS FOR OFFICIAL USE, THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS NOT YET ALLOWING IMPORTATION OF OFFICIAL MISSION VEHICLES. HOWEVER, DESPITE NOTE, CUSTOMS CONTINUES TO CLEAR VEHICLES FOR ALL MISSION PERSONNEL WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS EVEN IF THEY NOT ON DIPLOMATIC LIST.

5. IN CORPS DIPLOMATIQUE, DEAN HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FONMIN MALIK, THEN CALLED MEETING OF CORPS. UPSHOT OF MEETING WAS THE DEAN WOULD MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF STAFF PERSONNEL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPERTS. DEAN HAS ASKED SWISS AMB TO CHAIR A DRAFTING GROUP TO PREPARE AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO MALIK IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT.

6. HEAD, AMERICAN DIRECTORATE TOLD DCM MARCH 28 THAT STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO HAS ESTABLISHED COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE MATTER, AGAIN URGED PATIENCE AS GOI "SEEKS WAY OUT OF TRADE MINISTER'S REGULATION", AND EXPRESSED HOPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

SOLUTION MIGHT COME WITHIN NEXT MONTH.

7. WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISED MATTER WITH FORMIN MALIK APRIL 4, MALIK AVOIDED ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT OR SUGGESTION -- SIMPLY NOTING THIS IS PROBLEM BEING WORKED ON BY MINISTRIES TRADE AND FINANCE, AND QUICKLY CHANGING SUBJECT.

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8. IN SHORT, WE REMAIN ESSENTIALLY IN SAME POSITION REPORTED REFS B AND C, NAMELY: WE CAN BRING IN AUTOS FOR ANYONE HOLDING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR OFFICIAL CARS FOR MISSION, THOUGH FORDEPT NOTE SAYS WE CAN IMPORT SUCH CARS; AND STILL UNRESOLVED ARE CASES OF AID, DLG AND OTHER STAFF OR OFFICERS HAVING "SAME AS" STATUS, AS WELL AS AID CONTRACTORS.
NEWSOM

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